

HCS HB 905 -- BREED SPECIFIC DOG LEGISLATION

SPONSOR: DeGroot

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 1.

The bill specifies that the General Assembly occupies and preempts the entire field of legislation touching in any way the control or regulation of specific breeds of dogs. However, a village, town, or city can still prohibit dogs from running at large or to further control or regulate dogs within its boundaries so long as the ordinance, order, policy, or regulation is not breed specific.

This bill is the same as HB 1811 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that all dogs are individuals and deserve a chance, and cities need to quit tearing families apart. Breed specific legislation amounts to criminal liability for non-criminal action. A good enforceable vicious-dog law is better and more effective.

Testifying for the bill were Representative DeGroot; Best Friends Animal Society; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Camille Seever; Nicole Bray; Nate Meador, Great Plains SPCA; Michelle Davis, Kansas City Pet Project; Amanda Ryan, Missouri K9 Friends; Mandi Sullivan; Shannon Wells; Richard Antweiler, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Amy Harrington, Spay Neuter Kansas City; Brent Toellner, Kansas City Pet Project; Madison Weiler, Springfield Bully Allaince; and Jacob Earnest, Central Missouri Human Society.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they used to believe that dogs were not inherently mean but were trained to be that way. Experience has now convinced them otherwise.

Testifying against the bill were J. Jeff Hancock, Missouri Municipal League; Patty Lundgren; and Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation.